promised in Parliament by the then Minister on 3rd April, 1992; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the promised White Paper has not been made available so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In the discussion on 3rd April, 1992 on a private member's resolution in the Lok Sabha the Minister for Commerce had stated, inter-alia, that Government "will come back to this House for a full discussion based upon a paper circulated by the Government for the Honourable members". A discussion paper has since been circulated to members of both the Houses of Parliament.

Operational of international price Reimbursement scheme

2384. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: SHRI SHIV PARTAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to operate the International Price Reimbursement Scheme, a major export promotion instrument for two more years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Steel has advocated its abolition;

(c) if so, what are the reasons put forward by the Steel Ministry; and

(d) what factors weighed with Government to continue the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) in the engineering goods sector is presently in operation on the basis of a cess levied on primary steel producers. The future pattern of the IPRS is still under the consideration of the Government, and no final view has yet been taken by the Government.

Shifting of tea board office from Calcutta

2385. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Assam have requested the Central Government from time to time to shift the offices of the board from Calcutta to Guwahati;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the delegation of sufficient power to the Chief Executive located at Guwahati has not materialised so far; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Calcutta being a major commercial centre and one of the major Indian Ports, has remained the centre of export activity in tea. The headquarters of a number of exporting and producing firms are located at Calcutta. Moreover, most of the tea buying for overseas markets is done at Calcutta auctions. Thus, due to the straegic position of Calcutta and other infrastructural facilities available there, it has not been found possible to shift the headquarters of the Tea Board from Calcutta to Assam.

(c) Necessary administrative and financial powers have already been delegated to the Zonal Office of the Board;

(d) Does not arise.